News release

Winter sharpens its claws

16 February 2005

Snow, sub-zero temperatures and ice look set to hit Britain next week as weather patterns line up to give many of us the most significant period of winter weather yet this season.

The winter so far has been a mild one, with average temperatures across the UK some 2 °C above average. However, as signs of spring breakout across the country, forecasters at the Met Office are predicting the cold and potentially snowy weather to arrive through the weekend, with the risk of disruption from snow and ice lasting into next week.

The Met Office is responsible for the National Severe Weather Warning Service and is preparing for a period of increased activity this coming week. This service is the official service warning of severe weather for the UK and covers the following weather types.

- Severe gales
- Heavy rain
- Heavy snow
- Dense fog
- Freezing rain/widespread ice

Its aim is to protect life and property by alerting the nation to potentially hazardous weather.

The latest forecasts are always available via national and regional TV and radio as well as the web. The public is advised to check weather and travel conditions, especially when planning journeys during times of severe weather.

Latest forecast for the UK

UK warnings of severe weather

What to do in severe weather

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655
E-mail: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

© Crown copyright